

Appl. No. 10/615,510

Attorney Docket No. 8627-227

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**II. Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A guidewire comprising:  
a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another;  
a distal end portion having a substantially constant second diameter that is less than the first diameter;  
a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter;  
and  
a coating disposed over the distal end portion, taper portion, and at least a part of the body portion.
2. (Currently Amended) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a substantially continuous outer diameter.
3. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion.
4. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an elastic material.
5. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a low-friction coating.
6. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a hydrophilic material.
7. (Currently Amended) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the distal end portion defines a lumen and a lumen opening, and wherein the coating terminates adjacent the opening.
8. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the taper portion comprises individual wire coils having different diameters.

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9. (Original) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the taper portion comprises a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound at a pitch angle different than a pitch angle of a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils of the body portion.

10. – 18. (Withdrawn).

19. (Currently Amended) A guidewire comprising:  
a body portion having a first diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another;  
a distal end portion having a substantially constant second diameter that is less than the first diameter; and  
a taper portion having a taper from the first diameter to the second diameter.

20. (Previously Presented) The guidewire of claim 19, wherein the taper portion is machined so that at least one wire cooperating to define the wire coils has a varying thickness.

21. (New) The guidewire device according to claim 19, wherein the taper portion comprises individual wire coils having different diameters.

22. (New) The guidewire device according to claim 19, wherein the taper portion comprises a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils wound at a pitch angle different than a pitch angle of a multiple-filament group of individual wire coils of the body portion.

23. (New) A guidewire comprising:  
a body portion having a first inner diameter and a first outer diameter and comprising a multiple filament group of individual wire coils wound adjacent to one another; and

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a taper portion extending from the body portion and defining a decreasing second outer diameter and a substantially constant second inner diameter generally equal to the first inner diameter.

24. (New) The guidewire of claim 23, wherein the taper portion is machined so that at least one wire cooperating to define the wire coils has a varying thickness.

25. (New) The guidewire device according to claim 23, further comprising a coating disposed over the taper portion and at least a part of the body portion.

26. (New) The guidewire device according to claim 25, wherein the coating has a substantially continuous outer diameter.

27. (New) The guidewire device according to claim 25, wherein the coating defines a taper adjacent the taper portion.

28. (New) The guidewire device according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a substantially smooth outer diameter.

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